

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 143

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION encouraging the Congress of the United States to fully fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Vision for Space Exploration program.

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of explorers; and

WHEREAS, the desire to explore is part of our character, and history has shown that space exploration benefits all humankind through new technologies for everyday application, new jobs across the entire economic enterprise, economic contributions through new markets and commercial products, education and inspiration, United States leadership, increased security, and a legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, exploration and discovery have been especially important to the American experience, providing vision, hope, and economic stimulus, from new world explorers and American pioneers to the Apollo program; and

WHEREAS, just as Lewis and Clark could not have predicted the settlement of the American West within a hundred years of the start of their famous nineteenth-century expedition, the total benefits of a single exploratory undertaking or discovery cannot be predicted in advance; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has accomplished many great scientific and technological feats in addition to advancing humankind's knowledge of the Earth and the universe; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a venerable history of space exploration, which has led to a superior understanding of the heavens, from our moon to Mars and outward to the universe; and

WHEREAS, NASA's goals for Vision for Space Exploration include completing construction of the International Space Station, furthering human research on the surface of our moon, and extending human existence throughout the solar system; and

WHEREAS, the work of the United States space program figures dramatically in the technological accomplishments of our region and in our exciting growth over the last four decades; and

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration currently has agreements with Tennessee businesses, universities, and nonprofit organizations valued at more than \$336 million for research and contract work; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee have been directly involved in the long history of space exploration; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley collaborates to demonstrate our national leadership through regional cooperation and to help forge America's future route to space; and

WHEREAS, six astronauts have been born in the state of Tennessee, and nine others were educated at Tennessee educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is home to NASA Explorer schools in Bolivar and Chattanooga, along with an Educator Resource Center in Murfreesboro, and several other programs across the state are sponsored by NASA, through which educators and students at all grade levels are enlightened about NASA's exploration of the universe; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee academic institutions have played an important role in furthering the development of the National Space Program, with public and private universities and colleges working together with industry and pre-college partners to increase participation by Tennessee students in the economic, educational, and scientific benefits of our National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, our country is inspiring today's youth to become the scientists, engineers, technicians, and space explorers of the future; and

WHEREAS, the Space Exploration Vision has the potential to drive innovation, development, and advancement in aerospace and other high-technology industries across the nation and in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in order to guarantee the continuation of education and enlightenment through space discovery, as well as the development of the NASA space program, it is vital that the Congress of the United States enact and fully fund the proposed Vision for Space Exploration program as submitted to Congress in the fiscal year 2006 budget; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body recognizes the importance of and encourages Congress to enact and fund in its entirety the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Vision for Space Exploration program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee General Assembly wholeheartedly supports NASA's Vision for Space Exploration and firmly believes it will pioneer the next frontier and maintain America's leadership in space; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Tennessee congressional delegation.